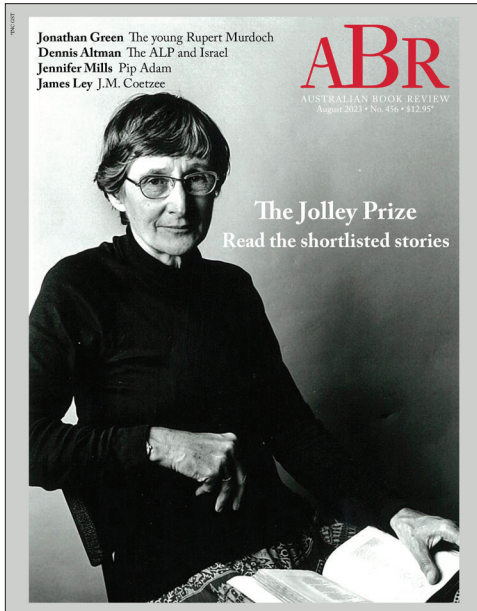


August 2023 issue highlights



Welcome to the August issue of *ABR*! This month we celebrate great short fiction with the announcement and publication of the shortlist for the 2023 *ABR* Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Prize. The winner will be revealed at an online ceremony on 17 August. Also in the August issue, Dennis Altman explores some of the complexities facing Australian Jews regarding Australia's relationship with Israel, James Ley reflects on J.M. Coetzee's novel *The Life and Times of Michael K* forty years after its original publication, and Jonathan Green reviews a new biography of Rupert Murdoch. Elsewhere, Kevin Foster examines the first of two new books on the Ben Roberts-Smith case, Joan Beaumont reviews a new work of history from Robin Prior, and Shannon Burns considers a new book on Gerald Murnane.

- **2023 *ABR* Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Prize shortlist** This year's *ABR* Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Prize attracted 1,200 entries from thirty-eight countries. *ABR* is delighted to reveal the shortlist: 'Black Wax' by Winter Bel (France), 'The Mannequin' by Rowan Heath (Victoria), and 'Our Own Fantastic' by Uzma Aslam Khan (United States). The shortlisted stories appear in the August issue (available from July 31).
- **Dennis Altman on Australian Jews in an intractable conflict** La Trobe University Vice Chancellor's Fellow Dennis Altman surveys Australia's support for Israel in its conflict with Palestine, writing that both Palestinian and Jewish Australians are 'witnesses to a struggle to which there seems no end'. Altman does see an end in which Israel is 'both Jewish and democratic', urging Australian Jews to push for this.
- **James Ley examines J.M. Coetzee's *Life and Times of Michael K* at forty** Essayist and literary critic James Ley goes back to J.M. Coetzee's fourth book and landmark work, now forty years old. Did the two-time Booker Prize winner elide the political realities of South Africa under apartheid by setting his narrative in the 'realm of allegory', asks Ley.
- **Jonathan Green reviews a new biography of the young Rupert Murdoch** Writer and broadcaster Jonathan Green applauds Walter Marsh's effort to 'get to the bottom of Rupert Murdoch' given the media mogul's far-reaching influence. For Green, this early-life biography depicts episodes of 'blunt uncaring' that explain Murdoch's emergence.
- **Shannon Burns ponders a new book about Gerald Murnane** Memoirist and former *ABR* Fellow Shannon Burns says time will tell if Emmett Stinson is right when he claims in his new book that Gerald Murnane is 'both the most original and most significant Australian author of the last fifty years'.

Interview requests and further information

For interview requests, please contact *ABR*: (03) 9699 8822 | editor@australianbookreview.com.au